

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the meeting room Belbroughton on Monday 6th September 2010

Present : Cllrs J Bradley, T Cherry, K Green, I Hadley, L Hardcastle, A Ince, T Jones, J Kitson, P Peacock, C Scurrell, P Shotton, S Wright and J Westley

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk. County Cllr Ed Moore and one member of the public also attended.

265/10 Apologies : Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Deeley.

266/10 Declarations of interest : Cllrs Bradley and Kitson declared a personal interest in the item relating to adoption of a telephone kiosk since they were both members of the History Society.

267/10 Police Matters

PC Lord attended for this item and gave a report on recent incidents in Belbroughton since the beginning of May. He promised to send the Clerk information about any incidents in Fairfield. Councillors asked about visits to the parish with a speed gun. PC Lord said that a couple of visits had been made to Hartle Lane since he last attended a Council meeting. More regular visits should be possible over the coming months now that the summer leave period was over. The CSOs had also been trained to use the speed gun.

268/10 Minutes of the meeting on 5th July 2010 – the minutes were agreed and were signed by the Chairman.

269/10 Reports

Chairman

Cllr Bradley said that the notes of a review meeting with the Clerk had been circulated along with a note of the Council's workload for the rest of the Council's term. This was for information unless anyone had any new items to suggest. Cllr Jones mentioned that the possibility of splitting the Council into separate Councils for Belbroughton and Fairfield had been touched on. It was agreed that the Council should consider at its next meeting whether to explore this further and if so how to take it forward.

Finance meetings

Cllr Green reported briefly on the Finance meetings held on 19th July and 23rd August. The Minutes were noted.

Planning meetings

Cllr Hadley reported on the three planning meetings held since the last full Council meeting (5th and 19th July and 23rd August). The Minutes were noted.

Clerk's report Fairfield Recreation Ground : damage to one of the pieces of equipment (the rabbit springy) has been raised with the manufacturer Wicksteed as a probable design fault. Graffiti on the children's climbing frame was being dealt with.

CALC Parish Council meeting on 1 September: a BDC task group was planning to encourage volunteering for the benefit of the community- everyone to be asked to sign up to

do four hours in 2011. PCs will be asked to promote the initiative - including suggesting suitable work. More information to follow.

Hackmans' Gate Lane footpath

Chairman and Clerk were meeting the landowners' agent on Wednesday 8th September to discuss a new route for the permissive footpath suggested by the land's tenant, Mr Beckett.

Trees on Sylvesters Corner and the village green, Belbroughton

The Clerk would be meeting Mr Mann, the tree surgeon, to agree the work required at Sylvesters Corner. The adjoining neighbour had also been invited. Permission had been received to remove the leylandii on the village green. The Council was required to plant native trees in their place.

270/10 Adoption of a telephone kiosk

A request had been received from Belbroughton History Society for the Council to adopt the kiosk in Pinchers Close, Belbroughton. The Council agreed to do so on the terms set out in the History Society's letter which indicated that the Society would be responsible for the maintenance of the kiosk.

271/10 Parish Council grants

The Council agreed the Finance Committee's recommendations that a capital grant of £750 and external maintenance grant of £800 should be made to Belbroughton Recreation Centre for the current year.

272/10 Consultation documents

The Council considered the consultation documents received and asked the Clerk to respond as follows:

- Polling Districts and Places review – noted; no comment at this stage.
- Review of BDC's licensing policy- noted. Clerk to thank BDC for the consultation.
- Disabled Access Awards – noted.
- The Government's Council Tax referendum proposals- the Council objected in principle to the proposed controls on parish council precepts. Small Councils should be excluded from these proposals.

273/10 Traffic issues

The WCC report on the proposal to remove the speed limit on part of the A491 had not yet been received. Item deferred for future discussion.

Possible sites for deployment of a mobile Vehicle Activated Sign in the parish were identified. Cllrs Ed Moore and Sheila Blagg would be asked to put these to the County Council for consideration. This suitability of sites would be a factor in the Parish Council's consideration of whether to purchase a VAS.

Cllr Moore mentioned that he was trying to get the 30 mph speed limit moved up Hackman's Gate Lane. A VAS could only be used within 30 mph limits.

274/10 Communication

The Council had agreed to circulate the consultation document about the meeting room with its autumn newsletter. It was agreed that the aim should be to distribute these at the end of October/early November. Councillors Peacock and Jones agreed to produce a draft - contributions from other Councillors were invited. It was agreed that the newsletter should warn people to be on their guard against opportunistic thefts from garages and garden sheds. The next parish council elections in May 2011 should also be mentioned.

Further publicity for the elections would be needed. The Council agreed that posters would be useful as well as a framed advertisement in the parish magazine. Potential candidates should also be encouraged to stand by current councillors.

275/10 Maintenance and improvements

Inspection of the Little Bell Hall sluice gate was still needed- to be done when the recent rains abated.

The annual tree survey on Parish Council land would be arranged for the autumn.

276/10 Correspondence

A note of correspondence received since the last meeting was circulated.

277/10 Councillors Items

Councillor Scurrall said that letters to a resident of Yew Tree Lane, Fairfield, asking them to cut back branches overhanging the footway had yielded no significant results. The Clerk would report to the County Council for them to pursue.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed.....Chairman